



Producer News

July 2006

From the SED

Disaster Conditions: USDA has an important role in monitoring and reporting disasters that affect Nebraska farmers and ranchers. Farm Service Agency gathers information about disaster conditions throughout the year. Damage assessment reports have already been provided by many Nebraska counties to define crop and pasture losses for the 2006 growing season. That information is analyzed by the Nebraska Ag Statistics Service, reviewed by the USDA State Emergency Board and forwarded to the National FSA office to support requests for disaster declarations. A Secretarial Natural Disaster Designation provides authority for the emergency loan program, the debt set aside program and may provide tax benefits pertaining to livestock culled due to disaster. Identifying disaster situations in Nebraska is another important part of our job at FSA.



Brian Wolford
State Executive Director

Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP: On June 5, the Nebraska State FSA Committee began requesting approval for emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acreage due to severe drought conditions. Qualifying counties have received approval for immediate emergency grazing and emergency haying as of July 16. Emergency haying and grazing of CRP helps provide feed for livestock when pastures are affected by disaster conditions. In order to qualify for emergency haying or grazing, a county must be designated on the Drought Monitor as level D3 (severe drought) or worse. Or, the county must have a 40 percent departure from normal moisture for the previous four months, in addition to the current month. If you have questions regarding this authority, please contact your local FSA office.

FSA State Review Plan Update: The FSA administrator asked each state to conduct a local level review to identify

ways to improve operations within existing budget and staffing levels. Meetings were held across Nebraska with our farmer elected county committee members in late March. Surveys were collected from county committee members and FSA employees to help determine the most important factors to consider when analyzing operations.

Meetings were held in June with a group of employees to analyze the surveys and to begin to identify criteria by which FSA offices in Nebraska will be evaluated. In the upcoming months, FSA will review state operations with a goal to develop ideas to improve service to producers and to provide better support to all FSA employees.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Reading this publication may help prevent you from missing out on important program rules and benefits. From all of us at Farm Service Agency, have a great summer!

FSA, RMA Coordinate 2006 Crop Insurance Monitoring Activities

The Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency are jointly monitoring activities to detect and prevent program fraud, waste and abuse. The Risk Management Agency provides oversight for private insurance companies that issue crop insurance policies. With the crop acreage reporting functions provided by the Farm Service Agency, these two USDA agencies are natural partners to provide program integrity for the insurance program.

With FSA statewide presence, this provides additional opportunities to detect possible crop insurance program fraud, waste and abuse that will be reported to RMA for follow up action. Producers are encouraged to report suspected cases to their local FSA Service Center, RMA Office or the Office of Inspector General. FSA completes monitoring activities for RMA by completing growing season inspections, as well as assisting in auditing claims. A small number of policy holders with losses are the insureds that RMA will request FSA to monitor.

FSA Farm Loans Available

Any farmer or rancher who may need a Farm Service Agency guaranteed loan or a direct loan must apply as early as possible because some FSA loan programs may not have adequate funds for the entire year.

To inquire for a loan, you should contact the local FSA county office where you plan to farm or ranch.

Nebraska lenders can submit guaranteed loan requests to help existing or beginning farmer or rancher customers. The FSA guaranteed loan program allows lenders to extend terms longer than normal, which may allow for a positive cash flow.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans are available to purchase or refinance debts for terms of 15 to 40 years, and operating loans are available to purchase or refinance chattels for terms up to seven years.

Five-year line-of-credit guaranteed loans are available for annual operating expenses.

On term operating loans and line-of-credit loans, interest assistance is available to reduce the interest by 4 percent for customers who are unable to repay at the regular interest rate.

Also, balloon payments can be scheduled on operating loans if a longer amortization is needed and there is real security or stock cows available for security.

Nebraska FSA encourages the lenders, farmers and ranchers to analyze their income and expenses for the past year and review their cash flows to determine their needs for the 2006 operating year.

Beginning Farmer, Rancher Loans
Beginning farmers or ranchers can get a “regular” farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency.

These loans finance up to 100 percent of the land’s purchase price (up to the

\$200,000 loan limit), and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate can be either the “regular” rate of 5.50 percent (as of June 1, 2006) or the “limited resource” rate of 5.00 percent (as of June 1, 2006).

The regular farm ownership loan funds may also be utilized in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

Qualification: Beginning farmer applicants must have been farming for at least 3 years and not more than 10 years. Applicants cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the average farm size for the county.

To apply for a loan, you should contact the local FSA county office where you plan to farm or ranch.

Land Contract Pilot Loan Program for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The pilot program provides the seller of the land a 10-year “prompt payment” guarantee of the sale to the beginning farmer or rancher (buyer).

If the buyer does not pay an annual installment due on the contract, or pays only part of an installment, USDA’s Farm Service Agency provides the scheduled payment or the unpaid portion to the seller through an escrow agent after the seller unsuccessfully attempts collection. The defaulted amount then becomes a federal debt of the buyer.

If the buyer does not restructure the debt into a repayment plan or other FSA-approved plan, FSA may use other means to collect the buyer’s debt.

The guarantee is limited to the total of two annual installments and also covers the amount of unpaid taxes and insurance for a period of two years.

To be eligible for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Land Contract Guarantee

Pilot Program, a prospective buyer must:

- Have been farming for at least 3 years and not more than 10 years;
- Not own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the average farm size for the county;
- Provide at least 5 percent cash down payment;
- Be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere without a guarantee to finance actual needs at reasonable rates and terms;
- Have an acceptable credit history demonstrated by satisfactory debt repayment; and
- Meet other requirements of the program.

Under the pilot program, the purchase price of the farm, ranch or other agricultural operation, cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or its current market value as determined by FSA.

The interest rate charged to the buyer for the 10-year term of the guarantee cannot exceed FSA’s direct farm ownership loan interest rate in effect at the time the guarantee is issued, plus three percentage points.

The direct farm ownership interest rate is 4.875 percent as of June 1, 2006. Rates change monthly and can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl/rates.htm>.

Contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years.

In addition, balloon payments are prohibited and payments on the contract must be of equal amounts.

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Ownership Program (10-40-50)

Obtain help financing the purchase of a farm up to \$250,000 of the purchase price or the appraised value whichever is less.

The applicant must put down 10 percent. FSA finances up to 40 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender.

The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible.

Rates: The FSA loan for 40 percent will be locked in for the full 15 years. Currently the rate is 4 percent. The loan for the balance of 50 percent should be the rate the contract holder or lender would charge an average customer.

Qualification: Beginning farmer applicants must have been farming for at least three years and not more than ten. Applicants cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the average farm size for the county.

Attention Socially Disadvantaged Farmers FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who

meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Emergency Loans FSA may make Emergency Loans (EM) to eligible family farmers that will enable them to return to their normal operations if they sustained qualifying losses resulting from natural disasters.

To be eligible for these loans, you have to have farmed in a county designated as a disaster.

Rates: The interest rate for the emergency loan is 3.75 percent.

Terms: Most emergency loans may be for up to seven years; however, if the loan is secured only on crops, it must be repaid when the next crop year's income is received. Loans to replace fixtures to the real estate may be scheduled for repayment up to 40 years.

Deadline: The final date for making an application for an EM loan is eight months after the disaster is declared.

Graze Out for Small Grains

The Graze Out program is for eligible producers who elect to use their wheat, barley, oats or triticale acreage for grazing by livestock and agree to forgo any other harvesting of the commodity on such acreage during the applicable crop year.

The application period for Graze Out begins on the first day the crop is normally mechanically harvested as determined by the county committee, and ends on March 31 of the calendar year following the year the crop is normally harvested.

Producers may file an application for Graze Out anytime during the application period, and applications may not be cancelled or withdrawn once submitted.

An eligible producer for Graze Out is any producer who is eligible for a

marketing assistance loan and who meets all of the following requirements: requests Graze-Out payments on loan deficiency payment certification and application (CCC-633 Grazing) before March 31 of the calendar year following the year the crop is normally harvested; agrees to forgo any other harvesting of the commodity on the acreage planted for grazing by livestock; and retains beneficial interest through the date the crop is grazed out.

Eligible acreage for Graze Out is any acreage of wheat, barley, oats or triticale that is certified with intended use as grazing. The crop must be entirely grazed out and not mechanically harvested. Crop acreage requested for Graze-Out is not eligible for any other marketing assistance loan or LDP, a crop insurance indemnity, or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or Crop Disaster Program.

LDP Reminder

With commodity prices at or below posted county prices, interest in loan deficiency payments will pick up, and it's time for a mini-refresher on LDP options.

Storing commodities on the farm — once the commodity is harvested and placed in farm storage, you can request a farm-stored LDP using the CCC-633 EZ pages 1 and 2 until the commodity leaves your farm or is fed. The payment rate would be based on the date you submit page 2. You must execute the intention for a LDP using a CCC-633 EZ page 1 before you sell or feed the crop and as long as there is an LDP rate in effect.

The LDP quantity can be measured by the office or certified by you. A measurement service cost is \$22.50 per request and \$6.00 per bin. If you are certifying the bushels, be prepared to provide the bin dimensions and the height of grain. Certified quantities are subject to spot-check.

Grain delivered directly from the field to a buyer, processor, ethanol plant,

unlicensed facility or feedlot — You must sign a CCC-633 EZ page 1 prior to crop harvest since you will lose beneficial interest. The LDP rate is based upon the date the grain is delivered once you file the CCC-633 EZ page 2. Your sales receipt or summary sheets are your documentation. Receipts should include your name and address; the buyer's name, address and phone number; quantity delivered; the date of delivery; and the grade, test weight and moisture content.

Grain being fed during harvest — Chopped corn, for instance, fed out during harvest is still eligible for an LDP. Keep track of the harvest dates and the tonnage chopped and fed. You need to sign a CCC-633 EZ page 1 prior to harvest. The LDP rate is based on the dates fed. The county committee determines your yield using the whole grain quantity harvested on your farm, or three similar farms. You have 60 calendar days after the date of harvest to provide this documentation to the office. Grazing is not considered harvested.

Grain delivered to a licensed warehouse — For quantities delivered to an approved warehouse where beneficial interest will be maintained, the producer may complete a CCC-633 LDP request before beneficial interest is lost. Acceptable production evidence in the form of summary sheets, scale tickets, etc., must be provided at the time of LDP request.

Date of Delivery Option Requested Before Harvest

You may be interested in applying for field direct delivery loan deficiency payments (CCC-633EZ) before harvest. The "date of delivery" option on the CCC-633 EZ, item 23 allows you to obtain LDPs on requested quantities based on the date the commodity was delivered directly from the field to a processor, buyer, warehouse, wool pool or cooperative. The CCC-633EZ pages 1 and 2 may be completed when you are in the office certifying the crop.

Dates to Remember

June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA offices closed.
July 17	Final certification date for spring planted crops, other than small grains.
Aug. 1	Final date to submit nomination to be on county committee election ballot.
Aug. 1	Final date to request a farm reconstitution.
Sept. 1	NAP final application date for value loss crops, nursery crops, turf grass sod, Christmas trees and aquaculture.
Sept. 30	NAP final application date for alfalfa, mixed forage, fall seeded annual crops (rye, wheat and triticale) and grass.
Sept. 30	Final date to revise 2006 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program contracts.

The field direct delivery LDP option may be executed to cover a specific quantity, or all the grain delivered to a specific location. If the specific quantity requested is less than the total quantity delivered you may not select specific delivered quantities out of delivery order. Any CCC-633EZ with the date of delivery option completed after harvest begins will be applicable only to unharvested quantities.

You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program to be eligible for LDPs. However, you must comply with various program requirements, such as acreage reporting for all crops (CCC-578), certifying compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation requirements (AD-1026), and filing a Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review (CCC-502).

For more information, stop by or call the office staff before harvest begins.

Electronic LDP Service Available

If you are connected to the Internet, you can now stay home and apply for an Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment, or eLDP, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You will receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in the new service, you must meet all eligibility requirements

for marketing assistance loans and LDPs for the commodity. Anyone with proper authority may be set up to act in a representative capacity on behalf of an entity.

The voluntary eLDP service has stringent security measures to protect your private information.

You must have an e-mail address and a customer profile established through your administrative county Farm Service Agency office and file a CCC-633 EZ page1.

You must also have or create an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity

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verification. The customer profile established in the county office determines eligibility and identifies the grain production for the eLDP process.

Crop Acreage Reports

If you apply for marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments or participate in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment, Conservation Reserve or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance programs, you are required to file a crop acreage report each year. The final date to file a report for 2006 is June 30 for small grains and July 17 for all other crops.

Requesting LDP Benefits

The CCC-633 EZ is a 2-part form available to you to request loan deficiency payments. The CCC-633 EZ is a 2-part form consisting of multiple pages. The CCC-633 EZ;

- page 1 includes terms and conditions, and serves as your intention to request and receive LDP benefits
- page 2 is the applicable request for feed grains, minor oilseeds, honey and pulses
- page 3 is applicable to cotton
- page 4 is the applicable request for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

Page 1 indicates your intention to receive LDP benefits before losing beneficial interest. Many producers file this page during crop certification. However, it must be filed before you lose beneficial interest.

Depending on your commodity, pages 2 through 4 of the CCC-633 EZ must be completed to request the actual LDP benefit. The LDP rate will be based on the earlier of the date beneficial interest is lost or the LDP request date.

For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ must be completed to receive LDP

benefits. The CCC-633 LDP and CCC-709 forms are obsolete and will not be accepted as a valid LDP request.

Since the CCC-633 EZ will be the only LDP form accepted, both pages of the form must be received in the office in order to receive your LDP. Remember, page 1 **must** be filed before losing beneficial interest in the applicable crop.

Contact your local county office staff for details regarding the form's use.

Price Support Payment Limitation Issues

It is not the responsibility of Farm Service Agency employees to maintain totals of benefits (e.g., marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments) to inform you of payment limitation earnings. Determined person or persons are responsible for keeping track of their own limitation based upon their submitted applications.

The gain earned from the commodity loan redemption using commodity certificates does not apply toward the payment limitation. The option to lock in a posted county price is not available for locking in a commodity certificate rate.

The rate for the purchase of commodity certificates is based upon the daily posted county price on the date you purchase the commodity certificates. The commodity certificates must be redeemed on the same day they are purchased.

You cannot lock-in a posted county price for later use of loan repayment and expect to use commodity certificates using the lock-in rate.

Nominations Accepted for County Committee

It's county committee election time, and your local Farm Service Agency county office is accepting nominations for candidates. County committees have

three to five members, each representing one of the county's local administrative areas, and each serving a three-year term.

Every year one-third of the seats on the county committee are up for election. Most counties are divided into three LAAs, and that means one seat will be filled this election. Combined counties have as many as five LAAs. Some of these counties may be filling two seats this year.

From June 15 through Aug. 1, county offices will be accepting nominations for candidates to run for a seat on the committee. To be a candidate, the nominee must be eligible to vote in the election and must reside in the LAA holding the election.

Who Can Vote? If you are of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch and you are eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law, you are an eligible voter. If you are not of legal voting age but supervise and conduct the farming operations on an entire farm, and you are eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided for by law, you are also an eligible voter. If you have a question about your eligibility, contact your county office staff.

Nominate or be Nominated. Eligible voters can nominate one or more candidates to run for office. If you are an eligible voter and reside in the local administrative area that is holding this year's election, you can be nominated by another voter or *you can nominate yourself* as a candidate.

County committees are important to the operation of FSA. They help deliver farm programs at the local level. Producers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to serve the needs of local producers.

Stop by your local FSA county office to pick up nomination forms (FSA-669A) or download them from the FSA Web

site. Go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on the Vote icon.

Remember, you can nominate as many candidates as you like, but you must use a separate form for each candidate. Also, nominees must sign the form, indicating their willingness to serve if elected.

Election Timeline

- June 15 Nomination period begins
- Aug. 1 Deadline to submit nomination forms
- Nov. 3 Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 4 Deadline to submit completed ballots
- Jan. 1, 2007 New committee members and alternates take office.

New Election Guidelines

New guidelines are in effect for this year's county committee elections. The new guidelines will help ensure that Farm Service Agency county committees fairly represent all agricultural producers in a county, including farmers and ranchers who are members of a socially disadvantaged group.

Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers include African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.

The new guidelines were authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill and are designed to increase participation on county committees by minorities and women.

Under the new guidelines:

- if no valid nominations are filed, the Secretary of Agriculture may nominate up to two individuals to be placed on the ballot;
- county committees must review the local administrative area boundaries

annually to ensure the fair representation of socially disadvantaged producers in the county or multi-county area;

- FSA county office staff will actively locate and recruit eligible candidates identified as socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers as potential nominees.

In addition to elected members, county committees may also include advisors appointed by the state committee.

Advisors are appointed to committees in counties or multi-county areas with large numbers of socially disadvantaged producers or that do not have minority or female elected members on the committee.

More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is called for.

The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program.

- Estate Method — the division of bases for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more

persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

- Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system;
- DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

The final date to request a 2006 reconstitution is Aug. 1, 2006. If 2006 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2007, unless the payments are refunded.

It's Not Too Late...

...to sign-up for the 2006 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, but having missed the June 1 deadline will cost you a late-filing fee of \$100 per farm.

You have until Sept. 30, 2006, to sign-up for the 2006 DCP.

When signing the 2006 contract, remember that contract shares should correspond with (1) the shares and risk and (2) control of base acreage reported on acreage reports.

Succession to contract shares for 2006 must be reported and new contracts signed no later than Sept. 30, 2006.

Contact the staff of your local county office for details.

Refund of 2005 Counter-cyclical Payments

If you participate in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, take note. There is possibility that under current market conditions producers who received 2005 advance counter-cyclical payments may be required to repay all or a portion of these payments.

You will have two options to refund unearned advances:

Refund Option 1: The Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically reduce any DCP payments you receive between Oct. 1, 2006, and Oct. 31, 2007, to satisfy your obligation to repay the unearned 2005-crop advance counter-cyclical payments.

Scheduled payments you may receive during this period include 2006-crop final direct payments, 2006-crop advance counter-cyclical payments and 2007-crop advance direct payments.

For this method, you need not take any action — the county office staff will automatically take deductions from future DCP payments.

Refund Option 2: This method follows procedures under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. Under this option, you will be sent an initial notification letter following the end of each crop's marketing year that will inform you of the specific amount of the debt, followed by a first demand letter. At that time, you may settle the debt by writing a check to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Please let the staff at the county office know if you decide to use Refund Option 2.

Managed Haying and Grazing

The 2002 Farm Bill allows managed haying and grazing — under certain conditions — on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Here

are a few of the conditions you should keep in mind.

To begin with, you must have an approved haying and grazing plan.

Managed haying or grazing is limited to no more than one out of every three years after the cover is fully established. So, acreage hayed or grazed under managed *or* emergency provisions in 2004 or 2005 cannot be hayed or grazed this year.

Managed haying and grazing may be available less frequently in a particular area depending upon local conditions, resource capacity and the conservation goals of the program.

Managed haying or grazing is not allowed during the primary nesting and brood-rearing season, which is May 1 through July 15 in Nebraska.

In Nebraska, managed haying is allowed from July 16 through Aug. 31. Managed grazing is allowed from July 16 through Sept. 30. Bales must be removed from CRP acres by Oct. 15.

CRP participants requesting managed haying and grazing must file a request with the county office staff indicating the acreage to be hayed or grazed before the activity begins.

CRP participants requesting managed haying and grazing are assessed a 25 percent payment reduction.

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at your local Farm Service Agency county office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated.

For farm ownership changes, you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. All landowners must furnish their tax ID numbers.

Remember, failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have

an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm programs.

Reporting Noninsured Crop Losses

If you've purchased Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, don't forget to file a timely notice of loss if you have one.

To be eligible for NAP assistance, you must notify the staff of your local Farm Service Agency county office of any crop loss or damage within 15 days of the:

- natural disaster occurrence;
- date damage to the crop or loss of production becomes apparent to the farmer;
- normal harvest date, as established by FSA; or
- final planting date, if the planting was prevented by a natural disaster.

Field visits may be required for a timely filed notice of loss. If so, they'll be scheduled, to the extent practicable, within five calendar days of the date the notice of loss, Form CCC-576, is filed.

If you are planning to destroy the crop prior to harvest, an inspection of the **entire acreage** must be completed before hand.

Acreage destroyed without inspection and consent will not be eligible for NAP assistance.

If notice of loss is not filed timely, you may be determined ineligible for NAP payments for that specific crop loss.

Late-filed notice of loss can only be approved if the cause of loss and extent of crop damage can be accurately assessed by FSA through a field visit.

The form CCC-576, Notice of Loss and Application for Payment, is used to

document losses for NAP crops. The CCC-576 documents:

- your notice of loss or damage to a NAP crop or commodity;
- an explanation of what has been done with the crop acreage or commodity;
- a record of production; and
- an application for NAP payment.

A separate CCC-576 must be filed for each crop and type, or variety of the crop, affected by a weather-related event or adverse natural disaster occurrence.

Later weather events affecting the same crop must also be reported, but will be documented on the previously filed CCC-576. "Part B" of the CCC-576 is completed by you.

An application for payment is not considered filed until all production information has been submitted,

including appraisal data and production evidence, and agreed to in "Part E" of the CCC-576.

Any producer having an interest in the crop or commodity may file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss. However, all producers on a unit are bound by the operator's filing or failure to file, unless the individual producers elect to timely file notice.

The NAP Application for Coverage, Form CCC-471, must be filed by the applicable application closing date for the crop, with the appropriate fees paid, in order for the Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, to be approved by FSA.

Sign-Up Results

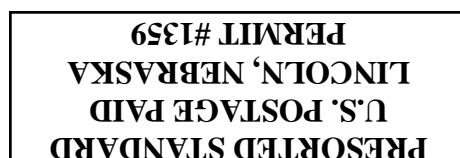
The results of Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up 33 and the 2007 contract re-enrollment/extension (REX) have been announced.

Sign-Up 33. Nationally, the Farm Service Agency received 22,990 offers, covering 1,369,447 acres, for enrollment and accepted 18,140, covering 1,007,793 acres.

All offers were ranked on the same basis and those with an Environmental Benefits Index of at least 242 were acceptable for enrollment. The average EBI for all offers was 284.

Nebraska producers made 1,427 offers covering 77,577 acres, of which 1,207 (61,363 acres) were accepted. County offices will begin notifying producers immediately with acceptable and rejected offers.

2007 REX. Producers who have contracts set to expire in 2007 decided to re-enroll or extend CRP contracts covering 14 million acres. Here in Nebraska, 558,043 acres were set to expire, all of which were eligible to participate in REX.



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